

Power Crisis in Northern Region

1256. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's views and reaction to the massive power crisis in Northern region on 2nd January, 2001 inflicting a loss of Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 crore in industrial production, according to apex industry association; and

(b) the details of concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to stabilize the transmission and distribution of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A major grid disturbance resulted in the collapse of the Northern Regional Grid on 2nd January, 2001. An inquiry was ordered by the Government on 3rd January, 2001. The Chairman, Central Electricity Authority conducted the inquiry and submitted his report on 10th January, 2001. Several factors contributed to the grid collapse. One role of Rihand-Dadri HVDC line was out of service from 14th December, 2000 due to multiple failure of converter transformers. This had restricted the transmission capability between the eastern part, where all pit-head generation is located and western part of the Northern Region, where major load centres are located. On the night of 1st/2nd January, 2001, a number of 220 KV and 400 KV lines of the UP transmission system had tripped and this imposed a severe strain on the transmission system. The transmission capability which had been impaired due to reduced capability of the Rihand-Dadri HVDC line got further eroded due to tripping of major high voltage transmission lines in UP system and this triggered grid separation and collapse.

Immediately after the grid collapse, Minister of Power addressed a letter to the Chief Minister of UP and to all the Chief Ministers advising them to ensure grid discipline by restricting their drawals from the grid in accordance with their allocated quota and grid requirements. Secretary (Power) on 11.1.2001 directed Chairman, Central Electricity Authority to monitor the action taken on weekly basis for implementing the recommendations made for preventing recurrence of such incidents. The implementation of the Action Plan formulated in accordance with the recommendations made by Chairman, Central Electricity Authority is being vigorously monitored by Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power.

(b) The important preventive measures being taken to avoid such incidents in future are as follows:

1. Periodic preventive and regular maintenance of all HVDC, 400 KV

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and 220 KV lines and sub-stations.

2. Introduction of free governor mode of operation at all generating stations.
3. Ensuring proper operation of under frequency load shedding relays in SEBs distribution systems.
4. Implementation of a rational commercial mechanism which would induce SEBs to regulate their drawal and the generators to generate power according to schedules, to enable stabilization of voltage and frequency.
5. Installation of capacitors at load centres of State Electricity Boards.

Setting up Power Projects in Orissa

1257. SHRIANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal to set up any power project in Orissa is pending with the Central Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the stage at which the proposal is pending; and
- (d) the steps taken to clear the proposal expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) As on 28.2.2001, no DPR is under examination in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of Techno-economic clearance by CEA in Orissa.

Fly Ash from Thermal Power Plants

1258. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of fly ash from Thermal Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh and in the country as a whole;
- (b) the percentage of utilization of this fly ash in manufacture of products and inland fills and mine fills in Madhya Pradesh as well as in the country as a whole; and
- (c) the steps being taken by this Ministry to ensure higher utilisation of fly ash and what is the target for the next five years?